

O 011056Z APR 86
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISHU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0439
INFO ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISHU 03643

TERREP

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
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SUBJECT: SOMALI ATTITUDE ON LIBYA

11. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

12. ON APRIL 1 MFA PERMANENT SECRETARY ADAN MET WITH AMBASSADOR BRIDGES AT THE REQUEST OF PRESIDENT SIAD TO PRESENT SOMALI VIEWS ON THE RECENT U.S.-LIBYAN HOSTILITIES IN THE GULF OF SIDRA. AMBASSADOR NUR, STILL VISITING FROM WASHINGTON, AMERICAS DIRECTOR ELMI AND DCM WERE ALSO PRESENT. ADAN SAID THAT SOMALIA HAD JOINED THE COLLECTIVE ARAB LEAGUE POSITION ADOPTED AT TUNIS WHICH VIEWED U.S. MILITARY ACTION AGAINST LIBYA AS EXCESSIVE. THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, HAD REJECTED LIBYA'S REQUEST FOR A SEPARATE SOMALI STATEMENT CRITICAL OF THE U.S. TO BE ISSUED IN MOGADISHU. MOREOVER, THE MFA HAD INFORMED THE LIBYAN PEOPLE'S BUREAU THAT THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT COUNTENANCE ANY RETALIATION AGAINST U.S. PERSONNEL OR FACILITIES IN SOMALIA. THE LIBYANS WERE ASKED TO GIVE THEIR ASSURANCE THAT NO HOSTILE ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THE U.S. AND TO CONVEY THIS REQUEST TO TRIPOLI. ADAN SAID THAT THE LIBYAN PEOPLE'S BUREAU HAD NOW PROVIDED THESE ASSURANCES TO THE MFA.

13. BRIDGES ASKED ADAN TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENT SIAD OUR DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE ARAB LEAGUE RESOLUTION, BUT ALSO HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE SOMALI DECISION NOT TO ISSUE A SEPARATE STATEMENT AND FOR THE MFA DEMARCHE TO THE LIBYANS REGARDING RETALIATION. WE APPRECIATED THE EXCELLENT COOPERATION OF THE SOMALI SECURITY AUTHORITIES IN KEEPING CLOSE WATCH ON LIBYAN PERSONNEL IN SOMALIA. BRIDGES SAID HE BELIEVED THAT WE AND THE SOMALI AUTHORITIES FULLY AGREED THAT QADHAFI COULD NOT BE TRUSTED. WE WOULD THEREFORE LOOK TO CONTINUED CLOSE COOPERATION WITH SOMALI OFFICIALS ON THIS PROBLEM.

14. ADAN SUGGESTED THAT SOME COUNTRIES WERE TENDING TO LOOK AT WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN THE GULF OF SIDRA AS A CASE OF A POWERFUL COUNTRY TAKING A FORCEFUL STANCE AGAINST A SMALLER AND WEAKER ONE. BRIDGES SAID THAT WHILE UNDOUBTEDLY THE UNITED STATES WAS LARGER AND MORE POWERFUL THAN LIBYA, OUR ACTION WAS MOTIVATED BY OUR STRONG INTEREST IN MAINTAINING THE FREEDOM OF THE SEAS IN THE FACE OF ANY COUNTRY'S ILLEGAL CLAIMS, LARGE OR SMALL. BRIDGES REMINDED ADAN THAT WE HAD REACTED ONLY AFTER THE LIBYANS HAD FIRED SIX MISSILES AT OUR FORCES IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS OVER A PERIOD OF SEVERAL HOURS. WHILE THE GULF OF SIDRA EXERCISES HAD ENDED, WE WERE DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT LIBYA MIGHT SEEK TO ATTACK OUR PEOPLE OR FACILITIES ELSEWHERE. THE PROBLEM WAS COMPLICATED BY THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE LIBYANS WOULD EMPLOY OTHERS, INCLUDING CONCEIVABLY SOMALIS, TO DO THEIR DIRTY WORK. AGAIN, WE WERE ANXIOUS TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE SOMALI AUTHORITIES ON THIS.

15. AT THE END OF THE MEETING ADAN NOTED THAT HE WOULD BE GOING TO DJIBOUTI FROM APRIL 2 THROUGH 6 TO ATTEND THE NEXT IGAAD (EAST AFRICA DROUGHT) MEETING, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS ROUTINE.

BRIDGES